

CASE BP/G-32575A

FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

EV 678115237 US
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Feb. 17, 2006
Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

BETZ ET AL.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP03/07349

22 FEB 2006

FILED: 8 JULY 2003

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 10/520,568

Legal Staff
International Division

35 USC §371 DATE: Herewith

FOR: LIQUID FORMULATIONS WITH HIGH CONCENTRATION OF
HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE (HGH) COMPRISING 1,2-
PROPYLENE GLYCOL

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents
Office of PCT Legal Administration
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RENEWED PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.47(a)

This Renewed Petition is being filed in response a PTO decision in the above-identified application, mailed January 24, 2006. Specifically the PCT Legal Examiner requests a copy and translation of the original letter to Michael Betz who refuses to sign the declaration. Applicants note that a copy and translation of the original letters to Michael Betz were sent with applicants' Petition on December 16, 2005. However, a copy of the original letters and translations are attached hereto.

As previously noted, in response to a request by Sandoz to sign the declaration in the above-described patent application which was already signed by his co-inventor, John Stevens, Mr. Betz faxed a reply letter stating that he refuses to sign the declaration. Mr. Betz states that he believes he is entitled to remuneration under Austrian law from his former employer, Biochemie/Sandoz, because he is a joint inventor of the subject matter claimed in the above-described patent application. In the last sentence of the letter, Mr. Betz states that he shall return the documents in a signed manner only after having reached an agreement. An English language translation copy of Mr. Betz's letter is attached hereto, along with a copy of the original German language letter. .

In addition, as previously noted, in a letter dated May 17, 2005, Mr. Gasteiger, a Human Resource representative at Sandoz, informed Mr. Betz that he will receive remuneration provided that the prerequisites of Austrian Patent Law are fulfilled, for example, a patent is granted on the above-described patent application and the invention is used. An English language translation copy of Dr. Gasteiger's letter is attached hereto, along with a copy of the original German language letter.

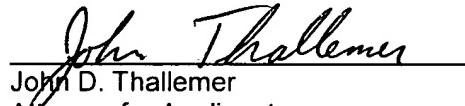
In response, Mr. Betz telephoned Dr. Gasteiger at Sandoz and requested a guarantee from Sandoz that he will receive remuneration for his invention. Dr. Gasteiger, or a colleague thereof, replied that Mr. Betz will receive remuneration provided the prerequisites of Austrian Patent Law with regard to remuneration are fulfilled.

Applicants submit that proof has been submitted that one of the inventors, Michael Betz, has been provided with a copy of the above-described application and declaration and refuses to sign the declaration. The requisite facts and background are supported by the accompanying letters attached hereto. Applicants further submit that a declaration has been submitted in response to a Notice of Missing Parts in which only one of the two named inventors has signed, as Michael Betz refuses to sign. For these reasons, Applicants request that this petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) be granted and the application be forwarded for prosecution on the merits.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any further fee due or credit any overcharge, as a result of this Renewed Petition to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7945


John D. Thallemer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,940

Date: February 17, 2006

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Case BP/G - 32575A

Biochemiestr. 10, 6250 Kundl, Austria

From Dr. Peter Gasteiger
Human Resources
Tel +43 (0)5338 200 3283

Email peter.gasteiger
@sandoz.com
Date 17th May 2005

Dr. Michael Betz
Jägerstraße 1
CH-8200 Schaffhausen

Patent application

Dear Dr. Betz,

We have been told by the Novartis Corporate Intellectual Property Department in Basel that you have not yet signed the documents for filing a patent application for certain liquid formulations with high concentrations of human growth hormone.

At this point, we would politely request you to do so by return. Regarding the claim for reimbursement which you have put forward, we would like to remind you of the two conditions for this:

1. Existence of patentability, established by grant of patent
2. a commercial act of use by the (former) employer.

Neither exists at present; in particular, we do not envisage when commercialisation will take place. When the conditions apply, we will examine any claims you may have for reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of patent law.

Furthermore, we would point out that Sandoz reserves the right to legally enforce if necessary any additional costs incurred by your refusal to sign the afore-mentioned documents. If the non-signing should also result in the loss of a patent application, Sandoz will present you with a statement of claim for damages - after appropriate verification. We presume that it will not come to this, and request your co-operation. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Sandoz GmbH

Dr. Peter Gasteiger

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Biochemiestr. 10, 6250 Kundl, Austria

Von Dr. Peter Gasteiger
Human Resources
Tel. +43 (0)5338 200-3283
Email peter.gasteiger
@sandoz.com
Datum 17. Mai 2005

Herrn
Dr. Michael Betz
Jägerstraße 1
CH-8200 Schaffhausen

Patentanmeldung

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Betz,

wir sind von der Novartis Corporate Intellectual Property- Abteilung in Basel darüber in Kenntnis gesetzt worden, dass Sie die Dokumente zur Patentanmeldung für bestimmte flüssige Formulierungen mit hohen Konzentrationen an humanem Wachstumshormon bislang noch nicht unterschrieben haben.

An dieser Stelle möchten wir Sie nochmals höflich ersuchen, dies umgehend zu tun.
Bezüglich des von Ihnen geltend gemachten Vergütungsanspruchs möchten wir nochmals auf die zwei hierfür notwendigen Voraussetzungen einnahmen:

1. Vorliegen der Patentfähigkeit, festgestellt durch die Patenterteilung
2. eine kommerzielle Benutzungshandlung des (vormaligen) Dienstgebers.

Beides liegt gegenwärtig nicht vor; insbesondere ist der Zeitpunkt der kommerziellen Nutzung nicht abzusehen. Sind die Voraussetzungen gegeben, werden wir auch Ihre etwaigen Ansprüche auf Vergütung entsprechend den Bestimmungen des Patentgesetzes prüfen.

Weiters möchten wir Sie darauf hinweisen, dass Sandoz es sich vorbehält, entstehende Mehrkosten, die durch Ihre bisherige Weigerung, die oben erwähnten Dokumente zu unterfertigen, notfalls gerichtlich geltend zu machen. Sollte es durch die Nicht-



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Unterfertigung auch zu einem Verlust einer Patentanmeldung kommen, wird Sandoz Ihnen gegenüber Schadenersatzansprüche - nach entsprechender Prüfung - erheben. Wir gehen jedoch davon aus, dass es dazu nicht kommen wird und ersuchen Sie um entsprechende Kooperation. Herzlichen Dank!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Sandoz GmbH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gasteiger". To the right of the signature is a small checkmark.

Dr. Peter Gasteiger

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Dr. Michael Betz, Jaegerstrasse 1, CH 8200 Schaffhausen

Biljana Colovic
Novartis AG
Corporate Intellectual Property
4002 Basel

Schaffhausen, 17th December 2003 (2004)

Patent applications: Liquid formulations with high concentrations of human growth hormone (HGH), containing 1,2-propylene glykcol/ glycine / phenol

Dear Frau Colovic,

Thank you for sending the declarations of assignment. It give me great pleasure to see that my inventions will be put to commercial use.

I have in my possession three sets of documents:

- One dated 6th August 2003, already signed by John Stevens, in respect of patent applications BP/G-32574P1; BP/G-32575P1 and BP/G-32576P1;
- one dated 10th December 2004, in respect of patent applications BP/G-32575A/BCK and BP/G-32576A/BCK (National Phase PCT/EP03/07349 and PCT/EP03/07346); and
- one dated 14th December 2004 in respect of patent application BP/G-32574BCK (National Phase PCT/EP03/07347).

In all the letters, I am requested to sign the said documents and thereby surrender to Sandoz AG all my rights in connection with these inventions.

In addition, there is my letter to Mr. Thomas Lehmeier of 1st September 2003, to which I have not yet received a reply.

In my letter, I pointed out *inter alia* §§ 7 to 17 of patent law, in which the Austrian legislation on the technical area of the patent relates expressly to the so-called service invention. When weighing up the interests between the employer and the employee inventor in the commercial evaluation of his invention, patent law operates on the principle that the result of work, in other words the invention of the employee, is not to be assigned for a fee to the employer, but a differential treatment regulation applies.

In any case, the employee is entitled to an appropriate special remuneration in accordance with § 8 para. 1 of patent law, because according to regulations the employee's salary does not count as compensation for inventive activity. The rights of the employee from the invention are unilaterally absolute in his favour according to § 17 of patent law, and remain in force even after termination of employment according to § 16 of patent law.

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I'd like to ask you again to explain the facts from your point of view, especially in respect of an appropriate remuneration, since all your correspondence on this point has been very recitent in this respect (we do hereby sell and assign to Sandoz... all our right, title and interest...).

You will understand that I shall let you have the signed documents only after we have reached an agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Michael Betz

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KOPIE

Dr. sc. Nat. Michael Betz

Corporate Intellectual Property				
17. Dez. 2004				
F/F	M/D	P.R.	PS	Copy

Jägerstrasse 1
 8200 Schaffhausen
 Schweiz

Telefon: + 41 (0)52 - 640 2349
katschmohn@gmx.ch

Dr. Michael Betz • Jägerstrasse 1 • CH 8200 Schaffhausen

Biljana Colovic
 Novartis AG
 Corporate Intellectual Property
 4002 Basel

Schaffhausen, 17. Dezember 2003

Patentanmeldungen: Flüssige Formulierungen mit hohen Konzentrationen an humanem Wachstumshormon (HGH), enthaltend 1,2-Propylenglykol / Glycin / Phenol

Sehr geehrte Frau Colovic,

Besten Dank für die Zusendung der Abtretungserklärungen. Mit grosser Freude sehe ich die gewerbliche Nutzung meiner Erfindungen voranschreiten.

Vor mir liegen nun drei Dokumenten-Sets:

- Eines mit Schreiben vom 6. August 2003, bereits unterzeichnet von John Stevens, bezüglich der Patentanmeldungen BP/G-32574P1; BP/G-32575P1 und BP/G-32576P1;
- eines mit Schreiben vom 10. Dezember 2004 bezüglich der Patentanmeldungen BP/G-32575A/BCK und BP/G-32576A/BCK (Nationale Phase PCT/EP03/07349 und PCT/EP03/07346); sowie,
- eines mit Schreiben vom 14. Dezember 2004 bezüglich der Patentanmeldung BP/G-32574BCK (Nationale Phase PCT/EP03/07347).

In allen Schreiben werde ich gebeten, die genannten Dokumente zu unterzeichnen und damit alle meine Rechte im Zusammenhang mit diesen Erfindungen an die Sandoz AG abzutreten.

Des Weiteren liegt vor mir mein Schreiben an Herrn Thomas Lehmeier vom 1. September 2003, das bisher unbeantwortet blieb.

In meinem Schreiben weise ich u.a. auf die §§ 7 bis 17 PatG hin, in denen der Österreichische Gesetzgeber im technischen Bereich des Patentes ausdrücklich für die sogenannte Diensterfindung Sorge trifft. Bei der Interessenabwägung zwischen der Dienstgeberseite und demjenigen des Dienstnehmerfinders an der kommerziellen Verwertung seiner Erfindung geht das Patentrecht davon aus, dass das Arbeitsergebnis, m.a.W. die Erfindung des Arbeitnehmers, nicht pauschal dem Dienstgeber zuzuordnen ist, sondern vielmehr eine differenzierte Regelung Platz greift.

Jedenfalls gebührt dem Arbeitnehmer eine angemessene besondere Vergütung nach § 8 Abs. 1 PatG, weil der dem Dienstnehmer zustehende Arbeitslohn regelmässig nicht Entgelt für Erfindertätigkeit ist. Die Rechte des Dienstnehmers aus der Erfindung sind einseitig zwingend zu

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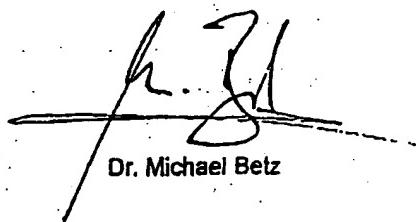
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seinen Gunsten gem. § 17 PatG und wirken selbst nach Auflösen des Dienstverhältnisses fort gem. § 16 PatG.

Ich möchte Sie nochmals bitten, mir die Sachlage aus Ihrer Sicht zu erläutern, v.a. im Hinblick auf eine angemessene Vergütung, da alle Ihre Schreiben in diesem Punkt sehr zurückhaltend formuliert sind (we do hereby sell and assign to Sandoz ... all our right, title and interest ...).

Sie werden verstehen, dass ich Ihnen die Dokumente erst nach einer Einigung unterzeichnet zukommen lassen werde.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Dr. Michael Betz

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